

October 2011**Student Directory**

Once again, we've had a great beginning to our school year with a terrific group of students. It's now time to republish the student phone directory for this school year. Often our students wish to call each other to make after school plans or to check on homework assignments. This directory is a handy way for students and their families to get in touch with other White Oak families. If you do not wish to be included in this directory for any reason, please call Betsy Ricco in the Student Affairs Office by October 17th and ask her to remove your name and number from the directory. Your child can pick up a copy in the office of either Building A or Building C by the end of October.

GIRLS' CLUB!

Torrential downpours couldn't dampen the spirit of the White Oak Girls' Club! On Thursday, September 29th they'd planned to go apple picking, but the drenching rain altered their plans. Instead, they enjoyed delicious ice cream at Friendly's and a fun game of Uno! Vikkie, Clara, and Liz enjoyed their sweet treats with Mrs. S. Chalero and Mrs. Gibson. The Girls' Club October event will be trekking through a corn maze and pumpkin picking!

CLASS NEWS!

Middle School News

Advisors: Mr. Marshall & Mr. McGovern

Contact Mr. Marshall for fundraising and event information.

9th Grade News

Advisors: Ms. Luff & Mrs. O'Connor

The 9th grade class emptied the recycling bottle bins and will continue to do so every month. Connor Hebb led the 9th grade class in a team building activity. Blind folded, the students had to shape a rope into a pentagon by using their communication skills. They got very close through Connor's leadership and oral instructions. Also the class discussed the bottle drive, to increase their funds 5 cents at a time. Soon there will be bins at the front of the cafeteria for the collection of returnables. Happy fall from the ninth grade class.

10th Grade News

Advisors: Mr. Schindel & Mrs. Carey

It is hard to believe the first month of school has come and gone. In October the 10th grade class will be looking forward to a class overnight at the school. Also, be on the look out for an information packet about the possible Washington D.C. trip at the end of the year.

Helping Hands News

Advisors: Mrs. Phelon, Mrs. Sherry, and Ms. Rossi

This month the Helping Hands Group will be participating in Bay State's *Rays of Hope Walk* on Sunday, October 23, 2011. The walk is being held at Springfield's Forest Park. The *Rays of Hope Walk* is a walk that is held annually to raise money for breast cancer research. If you are interested in making a donation to Helping Hands, please contact Mrs. Sherry or Mrs. Phelon by Friday October 21st!



11th Grade News

Advisor: Mrs. Gibson

On a crisp Saturday in September, 10 students from the Junior class had a wonderful experience at Springfield College's Ropes Course. The students worked together to complete tasks that were given to them by the instructors, and then many of the students took to the air for the high rope activities. The students have discussed taking other trips like this in the future such as zip lining and white water rafting. During our October class meeting, a representative from Josten's will stop by to discuss purchasing class rings. The students will be given information on that day to bring home. During that meeting, we will also discuss fundraising ideas for the year.

12th Grade News

Advisors: Mrs. Sherry & Mrs. Dombrowski

September was a busy and productive month! The seniors met during lunchtime to send out various letters to businesses for their Senior Raffle in February. A **BIG** thanks to Mrs. Ricco and Mrs. Ross for their help so far! In addition, the senior class is asking that if you know of someone who would like to donate a prize for the raffle please contact Mrs. Dombrowski or Mrs. Sherry for details.

1. On The Border – **Mark your calendars for Tuesday November 15, 2011** as this will be our fundraising night at on On The Border in West Springfield. Please let all your friends and relatives know- a % of each bill will be donated to our class!
2. NYC Bus Trips – we are hoping to schedule one or two bus trip to New York City as a fundraising activity for the students. We are hoping to schedule the first for early December.



White Oak School SPIRIT WEEK!

October 24th – 28th

Get ready for it! Show your school and class spirit! There will be prizes each day & the class with the most participation overall receives an ice cream party the following week.

Monday, October 24th: Class Color Day

YOU MUST BE IN DRESS CODE! Here are your colors:

Middle School: Green

9th Grade: Orange

10th Grade: Black

11th Grade: Red

12th Grade: Purple

Tuesday, October 25th: “Twins” Day!

Find a friend (or 2!) and dress alike! You can choose to wear the same outfit (black pants, red shirt) or dress as the same person (for example: Elvis or a Red Sox player). YOU MUST BE IN DRESS CODE – NO BLUE JEANS!

Wednesday, October 26th: Backwards, Inside-Out, Mismatch Day!

Get dressed with your eyes closed? Put together the “worst” outfit possible... flowers with stripes, different colored socks, backwards shirt. There will be a prize for the most mismatched outfit! All outfits must be school appropriate!

Thursday, October 27th: Sports Team Day!

Wear your favorite team t-shirt! You can wear a shirt or jersey from a professional team or your own team. You may wear a hat IF it matches your shirt (For example: Red Sox hat and Red Sox shirt). You must be in dress code from the waist down!

Friday, October 28th: Costume Day!

Be creative! Here are the rules: You may NOT wear a mask or paint your face. All costumes must be appropriate. Talk to Mrs. Sherry if you have any questions about a costume. If you take your costume off, you must be in dress code! No jeans as part of your costume.

STUDENT NEWS

A WHITE OAK CAMPING TRIP

BY: KATE C.

This past weekend seven kids and four chaperones went camping at the Cape. Friday evening everyone arrived at Nickerson State Park and set up camp. Before the students ate dinner almost everyone went to the playground. Later everyone sat down to eat dinner, and then played Uno. Everyone had a fun time, but the game never ended! Saturday morning we woke up to rain. For breakfast we went to the Pancake Man, which had delicious food. After breakfast, the group went to two different beaches. Later that day everyone went go-carting or mini golfing. After a long day of fun everyone went back to camp to have dinner. Sunday morning we had to wake up really early to get the van packed. Later that morning the group went to Martha's Vineyard. Overall, the whole trip was a blast!



Strong Start the White Oak Soccer Season **By: Kyle F., Team Captain**

The White Oak soccer team has started to come together as a team. Starting off this year, we had fourteen new players join ready to learn the system. After the first six games, the team has improved in certain areas. One area we have improved on is offense. We are opening up the field more by having better spacing allowing for more open players. This creates more scoring opportunities. Players are starting to understand their roles that they will have to do on the team and this has helped us improve. One area that the team has to improve on is being more aggressive. If we are more aggressive we can win the ball more and get more shots on goal. Over all we have had a good start to the season. During October we have mostly away games but we have home games on, Wednesday, October 5th, Thursday, October 6th, Saturday, October 22nd, Wednesday, October 26th, and our last home game, Thursday, October 27th. Come out and support the Wolf Pack!

STUDENTS SHARE THEIR AMAZING EXPERIENCES...

Extreme Makeover Experience

By Brandon Johnson

One of my bosses gave me a call and talked to me about a life-changing event, that was going on in this area. The Extreme Makeover: Home Edition chose the Springfield home of activist Sirdeaner L. Walker. Her eleven-year-old son had committed suicide because of bullying in April of 2009. There were dozens of students from the school that Carl (the son of Sirdeaner L. Walker) went to. There I was, at the home of Carl Joseph Walker Hoover Jr. All of the kids or students were there because we were to hold signs that had simple one-word epithets. The signs were to show how powerful the words could affect one child. There were words such as “queer,” “loser,” “reject” and some like “guttersnipe,” and there were many more. I personally felt bad for Carl because those words were really hurtful to see on a sign. The popularity of this show will spread the word of how bullying is a terrible problem, in all the schools across the country, that should never be ignored. This family was chosen out of a bunch of families because of this tragic event that occurred in this family. So I decided to go and join this amazing event! In addition to this event, they had a road race or walk that occurred within this one week. The Extreme Makeover: Home Edition team participated in the Anti-Bullying Back-To-School Road Race and Walk to show their support. “Being a buddy not a bully!”, is the walk’s special slogan. Every one around the world should take some time to help some one that is less fortunate or that needs the help!

Cycling For A Good Cause

By: Sam Epstein

While some kids were getting ready for a weekend of relaxing, I was gearing up for a three day bike ride for the American Lung Association. I biked 160 miles from Plymouth to Provincetown Mass during the weekend of September 30th to October 2nd. The ride started in Plymouth with 60 miles to ride that day. Later that day I suffered a leg injury that would hurt for the rest of the ride. Over the next two days, I rode 100 miles with my father for the American Lung Association. The fundraiser is a great way of experiencing Cape Cod and all of its beauty. Along the 160 miles we rode, we met some remarkable people. We met a lady who, at age 81, had rode the 160 miles ten times before and other people who gave inspiration to me by biking with air tanks to help them breathe. That’s just remarkable and I was happy that together my dad and I were able to raise over 1300 dollars for the American Lung Association.

My Journey

By Jonah Pava

This summer I went to Israel for six and half weeks all by myself. I went with a group called CVK. This stands for Chets Vakeshet, in English this means bow and arrow. I am Jewish and as a Jew it is important to see Israel and visit all of the sites of my ancestors. For me this was not my first time in Israel, it was my 5th time there. But this time was different because I was not with my family, instead I was with 300 Jews from all over the world. Some were from New York, Florida, California, Hawaii, and one was even from France. This was such an amazing experience for me because I got to meet and make new friends with all of these people in Israel. Israel is important for everybody to see because many religions originate there and you can see so many interesting sites. I visited many cities the first week. I went to Jerusalem for four days. Then I went north for army training for one week. After that I went south for a tropical experience. The fourth week I went up to the desert for a bit. The fifth week I went north to see all of the bordering countries. Lastly, I was with all of my cousins for a week and a half.

After meeting all of the people in my CVK group, we began our army training. My army training experience in Israel was hard and not much fun. Our commanders took us out to the middle of nowhere. When we first got there, we had to pitch tents for the entire group of 50 people and all we had was an hour to do it. If we didn't do it in time, they would make us run 4 miles in the hot sun and heat. After that they taught us how to shoot an M16. We practiced shooting and then our commanders took us all to the field so we could shoot at targets. Army training was a very tough experience because we could not shower and had to be outside for the entire week straight. Also we did not see civilization for the week. One of the hardest things they made us do was wake us up at three a.m. and run up a mountain. Towards the end of the week they made us practice all of the skills that we had learned. They made it seem like we were in combat, fighting against the enemies. This practice took two hours by and the time we were done everyone in the group completed the task safely, and no one was hurt or injured. This was one hard week but it finally ended Thursday morning. All of us were sick and ready to go home but we still had three more weeks left of Israel.

The third week we all traveled south to Eliat. This has a tropical climate like Florida. The temperature is around 110 degrees every day. When we went down to Eliat we were also on the border of Egypt. As we looked across the border we could see Egypt. When I was in Eliat I went to the beach at the Red Sea and swam in the cold water and saw all of the different kinds of fish that live in the sea. Eliat is a small city that has very little to do but it is a very exciting place to be in if you want to go shopping or swimming. I thought Eliat was so much fun because it was such an amazing tropical place. If you go to Eliat you can also do many different kinds of water sports such as wind surfing and skim boarding. Eliat is one of my favorite places to travel to in all of Israel.

The fourth week we traveled a little north of Elait and went to the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea. This is the lowest place in the entire world. The Sea is so salty that you can float instead of swim. The sea is also so salty that no fish or anything else lives in the sea at all. It is so much fun to just sit and float in the water instead of needing to swim. Unfortunately the water from the Dead Sea will sting if you have a cut on your body. The other thing that you can do at the Dead Sea is cover yourself in mud. The mud that you cover yourself in is supposed to be very healthy for your skin. The Dead Sea is a cool place to go and it is definitely worth seeing if you get a chance to go to Israel.

On the last week on the tour, we all went to the capital of Israel called Tel Aviv. This is located in the center of Israel. This small city is a lot like a Mini version of New York. There are lots of tall buildings in Tel Aviv and there are a lot of fancy restaurants that you can go to. Another thing that they have in Tel Aviv are amazing beaches. These beaches are so nice because the water is very warm. The beaches also have some amazing waves. It was so much fun to bodysurf in the Mediterranean. This may have been the best part of my entire trip.

Then the tour group ended and I was in Israel by myself for one whole week and a half. This was a lot of fun because I got a chance to hang out with some of my friends who I had not seen in a very long time. We got to go all over Israel and I got to experience the life of an Israeli. After I saw all of my friends, I went to my cousin's house to stay with them for the last few days of my trip. This was also exciting because my cousin and I got a chance to hitchhike all over Israel. This was exciting because we could get rides and go wherever we liked. All we had to do was stand at the side of the road and wait for a car to stop. Most of the time we were successful and got a ride but sometimes we were not and we had to walk a long way home.

I am very grateful that I went on this trip because I got to meet lots of new friends and I got to see lots of cool sites. My army training experience was a hard one but I know that I will never forget the important things that I learned during the training. I hope that I will be able to travel to Israel again very soon and see all of the great sites once more.

A+ Bonus Bucks Program

Stop & Shop Supermarkets

White Oak School has registered again for the A+ Bonus Bucks Program at Stop & Shop supermarkets. Anyone who uses a Stop & Shop card can apply “Bonus Bucks” to a school account.

There are two ways to sign up. Either call 1-877-275-2758 and have your card with you, or log on to stopandshop.com/aplus to sign up for the Bonus Bucks program (also have your card with you).

Each shopping visit, A+ Bonus Bucks are rounded to the nearest dollar. If your total purchase is \$3.49, you have earned 3 bonus points for the school you choose. If your purchase is \$10.78, you have earned 11 points. Specially marked items earn “Extra Credit”. You can earn an extra 50 A+ Bonus Bucks for each extra credit item purchased. Gas, pharmacy, tobacco and alcohol purchases do not qualify.

Schools receive a check each month from the program to spend any way they choose. You can find out on-line or by phone how Bonus Bucks are pooled and distributed to each school. Supplies, books and technology are all in demand, and any amount of money is helpful to schools. The program runs from October 6, 2011 through March 29, 2012, so sign up today!

Since the BigY Education Express program was discontinued last year, it's a great way to help schools provide some supplies to their students!





- Make sure you check the White Oak School web site for the latest news! This includes up-coming college field trip information from the Career Counseling office, the updated sports schedules, the lunch menu, and inclement weather information! Go to www.whiteoakschool.org!
- Don't forget to collect Box Tops For Education! Go to www.boxtops4education.com to see the complete list of products that have box tops on the packaging. Clip box tops and earn cash for our school! Submit Box Tops to Mrs. Lynch!



*** FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21ST WILL BE A DRESS DOWN DAY TO BENEFIT THE RAYS OF HOPE WALK. FOR A \$2 DONATION, STUDENTS MAY WEAR JEANS, SNEAKERS, AND AN APPROPRIATE T-SHIRT. NO HOODIES, SWEATPANTS, OR RIPPED JEANS. DRESS DOWN DAYS ARE OPTIONAL.**

SCENES FROM SOCCER AND CAPE COD CAMPING ...





